

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Embodiments of message gates are described. A message gate is the message
5 endpoint for a client or service in a distributed computing environment. A message gate
may provide a secure endpoint that sends and receives type-safe messages. Gates may
perform the sending and receiving of messages between clients and services using a
protocol specified in a service advertisement. In one embodiment, the messages are
eXtensible Markup Language (XML) messages. For a client, a message gate represents
10 the authority to use some or all of a service's capabilities. Each capability may be
expressed in terms of a message that may be sent to the service. Creation of a message
gate may involve an authentication service that generates an authentication credential, and
that may negotiate the desired level of security and the set of messages that may be passed
between client and service. A message gate may perform verification of messages against
15 a message schema to ensure that the messages are allowed. Message gates may embed
the authentication credential in outgoing messages so that the receiving message gate may
authenticate the message. Messages may also include information to allow the receiving
gate to verify that the message has not been compromised prior to receipt.

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